

Message Text

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ACTION DLOS-05

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OIC-02 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06

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CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 JUSE-00 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-01 OES-03

OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /145 W

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FM US MISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1792

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2263

FROM USDEL LOS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: COMMITTEE I WORKING GROUP MEETING, MAR. 25, 1975

1. COMMITTEE I WORKING GROUP (WG) HELD MEETING MAR. 25 A.M. THAT GENERATED INTENSE DEBATE ON WHETHER JOINT VENTURES SHOULD BE ONLY FORM OF EXPLOITATION UNDER TREATY OR WHETHER AUTHORITY COULD ALSO ENGAGE IN DIRECT EXPLOITATION AND SERVICE CONTRACTS. FOR SEVERAL DAYS, WG HAD BEEN DISCUSSING ELEMENTS OF JOINT VENTURE SYSTEM WITH TACIT ASSUMPTION THAT ISSUE OF DIRECT EXPLOITATION HAD BEEN LAID ASIDE. REFUSAL OF KEY INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO INDICATE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON DIRECT EXPLOITATION RESULTED IN MODERATE LDC SUPPORT FOR PROCEEDING WITH DISCUSSION OF JOINT VENTURE SYSTEM AND AVOIDING CONFRONTATION ON PHILOSOPHICAL ISSUE FOR TIME BEING.

2. IN OPENING STATEMENT, CHAIRMAN (PINTO) ASKED DELS TO
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COMMENT ON POSSIBLE ELEMENTS OF JOINT VENTURE

SYSTEM. RESPONSE BY MOROCCON REP THAT GRP OF 77 POSITION ON PHASES TO BE INCLUDED IN SINGLE CONTRACT WAS OPEN TO NEGOTIATION LED PERU REP TO OBJECT, STATING THAT FULL RANGE OF PHASES INCLUDED IN GRP OF 77 DRAFT MUST BE IN BASIC CONDITIONS IN ORDER TO PERMIT AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE IN DIRECT EXPLOITATION OR SERVICE CONTRACTS. BRAZIL REP SUPPLEMENTED PERU'S INTERVENTION WITH SPECIFIC DEMAND THAT WG AGREE IN PRINCIPLE THAT AUTHORITY COULD OPERATE DIRECTLY BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH DISCUSSION OF JOINT VENTURES AND CHAIRMAN ASKED IF ANY DEL OPPOSED BRAZIL'S VIEW. JAPAN, FRANCE, U.S. AND UKRAINE SSR REPS DESCRIBED CHAIRMAN'S QUESTION AS PREMATURE AND REFUSED TO RESPOND. U.S. (RATINER) STATEMENT STRESSED NEED FOR WG TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AT LEAST ONE AREA (E.G. JOINT VENTURE SYSTEM) IN ORDER TO HAVE BENCHMARK FOR NEGOTIATION ON OTHER REGIME AND MACHINERY ISSUES. TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND JAMAICA REPS, ALTHOUGH SUPPORTING DIRECT EXPLOITATION, ESSENTIALLY ADVOCATED U.S. PROCEDURAL PROPOSAL. ALSO OF IMPORTANCE WAS SINGAPORE REP'S SUPPORT FOR PARALLEL JOINT VENTURE AND DIRECT EXPLOITATION SYSTEM THAT HAD BEEN EXPRESSLY PROPOSED BY NETHERLANDS IN EARLIER INTERVENTION.

3. MEETING CLOSED WITH CHAIRMAN ENDORSING PROCEDURE PROPOSED BY U.S., TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND JAMAICA. ALTHOUGH NEXT STEP STILL UNCLEAR, IF GRP OF 77 AGREES TO CONTINUE DISCUSSION OF JOINT VENTURES THEN NET EFFECT MAY BE TO CHANGE TACIT AGREEMENT TO AVOID ARTICLE 9 DEBATE TO EXPLICIT SUPPORT FOR THIS PROCEDURE.DALE

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